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Australian Federation.

THE Australian Philatelist for June contains some interesting information in regard to the proposed federation of the Australian Colonies, the consummation of which will have an important effect upon the stamp issues of these countries. It will indeed be an interesting event in philately which will relegate to the shades of the past the separate issues of these countries, all of which have furnished such interesting and fascinating material to the general collector, as well as to the specialist.

We quote the article of our contemporary *in extenso* :

"By a majority of upwards of 24,000 votes recorded on the 20th instant the electors of New South Wales have accepted the Constitution which will weld the six Australian colonies into one undivided commonwealth. The colonies of Victoria, Western Australia, and Tasmania have once decided in favor of the new Constitution and only await the decision of New South Wales to submit the Amended Bill to the electors ; the Parliament of Queensland has passed the Enabling Act and will shortly submit it to the people whose acceptance is considered certain, and South Australia has already accepted the Constitution by a large majority.

The formalities now to be gone through before the Commonwealth becomes an accomplished fact will occupy about eighteen months, and it is confidently anticipated that the first Federal Parliament will meet about January 1, 1901.

The opening of this new chapter in the history of Australia will be one of paramount importance to all philatelists, in that it will be marked by one uniform issue of postage stamps for the whole Commonwealth. The postal and telegraphic services are amongst the first destined to be taken over by the Federal Government, and already rumors of great changes and concessions are rife. The Postmaster-General of New South Wales (The Hon. Varney Parkes) in speaking recently of the possibilities under the new Constitution, referred to the question of penny postage, intercolonial and imperial, as being one of the probable results of the union. Such a step would involve other changes, the reduction of the letter-card rate, for instance.

It is yet early to indulge in anticipations as to the probable design of the Commonwealth postage stamps, but it may be taken for granted that the occasion will be considered one calling for the exercise of great care and

judgment not only in the selection of beautiful and effective designs, but in the adoption of the most advanced method of production.

What will become of the "remainders" of the separate colonial issues after the momentous Act of Union has come into force will be a most interesting question to speculate upon, and perhaps also to speculate *in*!

It is instructive at this time to take a backward glance at the history of the Australian colonies, and trace their *disunion*.

At the beginning of the century New South Wales comprised the whole of the territory now divided into the four separate colonies of New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania.

In 1825 Tasmania (then called Van Diemen's Land) was separated from New South Wales and erected into a Crown colony. This colony issued its own stamps in November, 1853, the first supply being locally engraved. At the same time an order was sent to England for a more elaborate issue, which was to be permanent. The original name of the Colony was inscribed on these stamps, although owing to various causes they did not reach the island until 1855, in which year the Constitution Act was passed. This Act granted autonomy to the colony and changed the name "Van Diemen's Land," with all its gloomy associations, to the bright and hopeful name of "Tasmania," but the 1d, 2d and 4d, bearing the old title, remained in use until 1870.

In 1835 Port Phillip was settled, and the territory now called Victoria was administered by the Government of New South Wales as a "province" under the name of Port Phillip. The population of this new settlement increased so rapidly that in 1849 the inhabitants seriously contemplated separation from the mother Colony. In January, 1850, stamps were issued for use in the province, inscribed "Victoria", and on the same date the parent colony of New South Wales issued her first postage stamps. The political separation of Victoria from New South Wales was finally effected on the 1st July, 1851.

A penal settlement was established at Moreton Bay in 1824 and maintained until 1842, when it was abandoned and the district thrown open to free selection. On the 10th December, 1859, the country north of Point Danger was separated from New South Wales, and erected into the autonomous colony of Queensland. For nearly a year New South Wales stamps were used, being purchased at the cost of production, and on 1st November, 1860, Queensland issued its first definite series of postage stamps.

South Australia was settled independently in 1836, and issued stamps in 1855. Western Australia was settled as a penal establishment in 1826, made a Crown Colony in 1829, and erected into an autonomous colony in 1891. Postage stamps were issued in 1854.

All these separate colonies are now in a fair way to become one united Commonwealth, and the best wishes of philatelists for its future prosperity are assured."



The Postage Stamps of the United States.

BY JOHN N. LUFF.

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(Continued from page 339.)

SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMPS.

While the special delivery stamps are, in a sense, carriers' stamps, it seems best to consider them under a separate heading, for the reason that the ordinary rates of postage now include delivery by carrier in all places where such a service is in operation and for the additional reason that the special delivery stamps are intended to prepay an extra and specific service, for which a relatively high fee is charged.

An Act of Congress, approved March 3rd, 1885, provided in part as follows :

"Sec. 3. That a special stamp of the face valuation of ten cents may be provided and issued, whenever deemed advisable or expedient, in such form and bearing such device as may meet the approval of the Postmaster General, which, when attached to a letter, in addition to the lawful postage thereon, the delivery of which is to be at any free-delivery office, or at any city, town, or village containing a population of four thousand and over, according to the Federal census, shall be regarded as entitling such letter to immediate delivery within the carrier limit of any free delivery office which may be designated by the Postmaster General as a special delivery office, or within one mile of the post office at any other office coming within the provisions of this section which may in like manner be designated as a special delivery office.

"Sec. 4. That such specially stamped letters shall be delivered from seven o'clock ante meridian up to twelve o'clock midnight at offices designated by the Postmaster General under section three of this Act.

Under the authority of this Act stamps of a special design were prepared and supplied to 555 post offices. They were issued to the public on October 1st, 1885. The design is thus officially described :

TEN-CENT SPECIAL DELIVERY.—A line engraving on steel, oblong in form ; dimensions 13-16 by 1 7-16 inches ; color dark blue. Design : On the left an arched panel bearing the figure of a mail messenger boy on a run, and surmounted by the words "UNITED STATES"; on the right an oblong tablet, ornamented with a wreath of oak and laurel surrounding the words "SECURES IMMEDIATE DELIVERY AT A SPECIAL-DELIVERY OFFICE." Across the top of the tablet is the legend "SPECIAL POSTAL DELIVERY," and at the bottom the words "TEN CENTS," separated by a small shield bearing the numeral "10."

A circular of the Post Office Department, dated August 11th, 1885, included these instructions to postmasters concerning the special delivery stamps :

"They are to be sold by postmasters in any required amount, and to any person who may apply for them, but they can be used only for the purpose of securing the immediate delivery of letters addressed to and received in the mails at any of the offices designated as special-delivery offices. Under no circumstances are they to be used in the payment of postages of any description or of the registry fee, nor can any other stamps be employed to secure special delivery except the special-delivery stamp. The special-delivery stamp must be in addition to the lawful postage, and letters not prepaid with at least one full rate of postage, in accordance with the law and regulations, must be treated as held for postage, even though bearing a special delivery stamp.

Registered letters will be entitled to immediate delivery, the same as ordinary letters

when bearing a special-delivery stamp in addition to the full postage and registry fee required by the law and the regulations."

The special delivery service was popular and successful from the first. But a demand soon arose for its extension to all post offices. If it was desired to send a letter to a place other than one of the large cities, the sender found it necessary to consult a list of the special delivery offices. Such a list was not always at hand. Hence uncertainty and inconvenience tended to curtail the use of the stamp. It was felt that the service could only be made thoroughly efficient by extending the privilege to all post offices.

There was also found to be some uncertainty as to the meaning of the word "letter," as used in the Act, and also whether it was the intention of Congress that "immediate delivery" should include delivery on Sunday. The first question was temporarily settled by holding the word to mean only first class matter chargeable at letter rates of postage. The second was left to the further action of Congress.

Finally, the requirement of delivery until midnight was found to be a hardship, since it required many offices to be kept open unnecessarily.

The action that was taken on these various points is set forth in the following extract from an official circular :

SPECIAL DELIVERY SYSTEM.

Circular of information and instruction.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL,

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 10, 1886.

To all postmasters except at free delivery offices :

By the act of August 4, 1886, the Congress has authorized the extension of this system to all post offices and to all mailable matter. That act is as follows, viz :

"That every article of mailable matter upon which the special stamp provided for by section three of the act of Congress approved March third, eighteen hundred and eighty-five, entitled 'An act making appropriations for the service of the Post-Office Department for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and eighty-six, and for other purposes,' shall be duly affixed, shall be entitled to immediate delivery, according to said act, within the carrier-delivery limit of any free-delivery office, and within one mile of any other post office, which the Postmaster-General shall at any time designate as a special-delivery post office. The postmaster shall be responsible for such immediate delivery of every such article, and shall cause delivery to be made of all such articles received at his office bearing such stamp and entitled to delivery thereat, and may employ any persons, including clerks and assistants at third and fourth class offices, as messengers, on such terms as he shall fix as compensation for such delivery ; and to defray the expense thereof, such postmaster shall be entitled, upon the adjustment of his quarterly account, to eighty per centum of the face value of all such special-delivery stamps received at his office and recorded, according to said act and regulations of the Post-Office Department, during the quarter ; and such allowance shall be in full all the expenses of such delivery : Provided, That the Postmaster-General may, in his discretion, direct any free-delivery office to be excepted from the foregoing provision, and require the delivery to be made entirely by special messengers, according to the provisions of the act to which this is amendatory : And provided further, That he may contract for the immediate delivery of all articles from any post office, at any price less than eight cents per piece, when he shall deem it expedient. ***

The following orders and regulations are prescribed under the foregoing acts :

1. Every post office in the United States and Territories and the District of Columbia now established, and which shall be established while the foregoing acts remain, is hereby designated as a special-delivery office, and will be governed by said acts and the orders and regulations thereunder.

2. These regulations shall take effect and be in force on and after October 1, 1886.

3. On and after said last-named date every postmaster will be held responsible for the immediate delivery, according to said acts and these regulations, of every article of mailable matter which may be received addressed to his office, properly stamped with a special-delivery stamp.

4. Such immediate delivery *must* be made when the article is directed to an addressee residing or having a place of business within one mile of the post office. *The obligation to so deliver does not extend to an addressee beyond that distance, but the postmaster will be at liberty to make such delivery beyond such limits, and to receive the compensation therefor as in any other case.* It is commended to him as a proper and considerate thing to be done, in accommodation of the sender, whenever it is reasonably convenient.

5. The hours within which immediate delivery shall be made shall be at least from 7 a. m. to 7 p. m., and further until the arrival of the last mail, provided that such arrival be not later than 9 p. m. This requirement as to the hours of delivery does not necessarily extend to the transaction of any other postal business after the usual office hours. Special orders for later delivery may be made for first-class offices.

Postmasters are not required to make delivery of special-delivery matter on Sunday, nor to keep their offices open in any different manner on that day from what is now provided by regulation. Postmasters will be at liberty, however, to deliver special-delivery letters and parcels arriving on Sundays. * *

No change will be made in the general style of the special delivery stamp now in use.

The words "Secures immediate delivery at a special-delivery office" will, however, be changed to read, "Secures immediate delivery at any post-office." But as stamps with the former words are now in the hands of postmasters and the public, their use will be continued until the present supply shall be exhausted.

Similar instructions to postmasters at free-delivery offices placed the hours of delivery of letters bearing the special delivery stamps at 7 A. M. to 11 P. M., unless otherwise ordered by the Postmaster General.

The stock of stamps of the first design was sufficient to last until September 6th, 1888, when those with the new wording were issued to postmasters. In philatelic publications their appearance is first noted in the *Philatelic Record* for December, 1888.

In 1893 the Columbian stamps were issued. These stamps were of about the same dimensions as the special delivery stamp and one denomination, the one cent, was of the same color. This caused some confusion and gave rise to mistakes in the payment of postage and the treatment of letters bearing the stamps. It was accordingly decided to change the color of the special delivery stamp.

The report of the Third Assistant Postmaster General for 1894 says :

"Its color was changed from blue to orange, January 24, 1893, and so continued to January 5, 1894, when printing in blue was resumed. The issue of the orange-colored stamp was not discontinued until the 19th of May, 1894, when the stock on hand at the manufactory was exhausted.

"In all there were 5,099,500 stamps of the orange color sent to postmasters "

The stamp of the new color was reported in use as early as January 28, 1893.

In 1894 the contract for the manufacture of postage stamps passed from the American Bank Note Company to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing at Washington. The new contractors placed on all the stamps marks by which their work might be distinguished from that of their predecessors. The changes made in the special delivery stamp were the addition of small ornamental dashes under the words "TEN" and "CENTS" and a deepening of the lines marking the edge of the bevel of the background panel.

The stamps of this type were issued on ordinary paper October 10th, 1894. On August 16th, 1895, they appeared on paper watermarked with the letters "U S. P. S."

The stamps measure $36\frac{1}{2} \times 21$ mm.

The paper used for the various issues was first the thick, soft, porous paper employed by the American Bank Note Company, next a similar paper used by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and lastly the watermarked paper mentioned just above.

The gum used by the first contractors varied from pure white to brown. That employed by the present manufacturers is either white or yellowish.

The following shades and varieties are to be found :

Perforated 12.

AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO.

Thick Soft Porous Wove Paper.

Oct. 1st, 1885. 10 cents (Special Office) light blue, blue, deep blue
 Sept. 6th, 1888. 10 cents (Any Post Office) light blue, blue, deep blue
 Jan. 24th, 1893. 10 cents (Any Post Office) yellow-orange, orange, deep orange

BUREAU OF ENGRAVING & PRINTING.

Thick Soft Porous Wove Paper.

Oct. 10th, 1894. 10 cents (Any Post Office) blue, dark blue, marine blue

Paper Watermarked "U. S. P. S."

Aug. 16th, 1895. 10 cents (Any Post Office) blue, dark blue, marine blue

Variety :

10 cents dark blue. Imperforate

The plates contain one hundred stamps each, arranged in ten rows of ten. Usually the sheets are divided vertically through the middle into half sheets of fifty stamps. This seems to have been the rule with all the blue stamps but those printed in orange were often, if not always, issued in full sheets of one hundred. The imprint is placed at the middle of the top and bottom of each half sheet. The plate number appears between each imprint and the central dividing line. The imprint of the American Bank Note Co is, as usual, merely the name of the company in small, heavy-faced, shaded capitals. The imprint of the other contractors is "BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING" in white Roman capitals on a colored panel having truncated corners and surrounded by a thin colored line. At each end of the panel is a large three branched ornament.

The plates for these stamps were numbered :

AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO.

Plates of 1885-88.

10 cents blue (Special Office) (100) Nos. 495, 496
 10 cents blue (Any Post Office) (100) No. 552
 10 cents orange (Any Post Office) (100) No. 552

Plates of 1890-93.

10 cents blue (Any Post Office) (100) No. 73
 10 cents orange (Any Post Office) (100) No. 73

BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING.

Plates of 1894-95.

Unwatermarked

10 cents blue (Any Post Office) (100) No. 77

Watermarked "U. S. P. S."

10 cents blue (Any Post Office) (100) Nos. 77, 257, 381, 492,
682, 880, 881, 882, 883

Plate No. 682 is known to have been made but up to this date it has not been put to press. The imperforate stamps are from plate No. 257.

The annual reports of the Postmaster General supply the following statistics of quantities delivered to deputy postmasters.

QUARTER ENDING

Fiscal year	Sept. 30.	Dec. 31.	Mch. 31.	June 30.	Total.
1885-86	2,074,320	1,265,750	241,990	117,500	3,699,560
1886-87	215,880	492,050	254,980	283,030	1,245,940
1887-88	329,970	393,810	311,670	296,340	1,331,790
1888-89	347,360	521,940	302,440	†403,910	1,575,650
1889-90	719,130	359,610	526,810	515,340	2,120,890
1890-91	596,510	680,750	641,550	650,540	2,569,350
1891-92	660,100	764,530	783,790	908,800	3,117,220
1892-93	720,670	886,090	1,032,090	889,220	3,528,070
1893-94	1,020,610	862,990	806,560	983,860	3,674,020
1894-95	905,300	1,053,380	954,820	995,280	3,908,780
1895-96	1,059,630	1,187,490	1,104,420	1,114,730	4,466,270
1896-97	1,025,720	1,095,630	1,046,610	1,178,370	4,346,330
1897-98	1,277,880	1,349,660	1,354,910	1,182,280	5,164,730

Whole number of stamps 40,784,600. Value \$4,074,860.00.

*600 of these are "specimens."

†111,900 of these are "specimens."

It is probable that these "specimens" were not always surcharged with that word but that most of them were proofs.

Note.—It is the wish of the author to secure for this work the greatest possible accuracy and completeness. As an assistance to this end he requests philatelists to call his attention to any errors or corrections to be made in dates and to any varieties which may be omitted from the lists. In addition to this the publishers will greatly appreciate the loan of any copies of the Baltimore and Brattleboro stamps and of Carriers of type C4, C28, C29 and C30 (58th edition of the Standard Catalogue) in order that illustrations of as many types as possible may be secured. For which favors thanks are tendered in advance.

(To be continued.)



Our English Letter.

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

LONDON, 15th July, 1899.

The affairs of Hilckes & Co. seem to have reached the crisis, for callers at the business address of the firm are now informed by a notice attached to the door that all business communications must be addressed to the Official Receiver. It is said that the Debenture holders will probably carry on the business. The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* has not come out for last week yet, but the journal will doubtless be safely secured for continuance, for there is no doubt that the *Fortnightly*, despite its cantankerousness, was a good property. Hilckes was a smart journalist, and managed to make a very interesting journal of his venture. In fact, it is the general belief that if Hilckes had been less cantankerous and more friendly disposed to the philatelic world in general he would have had a splendid business in the city of London. But he dearly loved a brush with some one—friend or foe—it mattered not much so long as he had the pleasure of the exhilaration that came of a round or so with somebody. That sort of thing however begets more enemies than friends.

For method in keeping his stamps I have never known a better arranged stock than Hilckes'. I had the run of it once for Gambias, and could not sail to be impressed with the orderly manner in which everything was kept even to the smallest detail of the commonest stamps. He had then one of the finest stocks of Gambias in the market. Such a thorough method as his would be a fortune to some other dealers in the same city of London. I know of one place where stamps are kept in what I should term waste paper style—that is, everything is bundled into irrecongnisable heaps.

This question of method in keeping stock is a very important one, not merely from the dealers point of view, but from the collectors as well. For, when a dealer has his stock well arranged, he can show all or any desired portion of it to a customer upon the shortest notice. A specialist likes to have the run of the whole stock for shades, and if a stock is well arranged he can pick them out without any trouble. But if as tock is all higgeldy piggeldy nothing can be done, and the dealer loses sales and possibly a customer.

The June number of the *London Philatelist* contains the annual report of the Philatelic Society of London, which promises the work on Great Britain immediately and also the second portion of the work on Africa, the first

portion of which was published about five years since. This will be good news for African collectors, for this second part has been looked forward to with much anticipation of valuable work, especially in matter and illustration affecting the stamps of Mauritius. The book the Hon. Sec. "hopes may be issued before the termination of the present year."

Another matter in the report corrects a misapprehension as to the total number of resignations. The Hon. Sec. puts them at 18. I put them, in a recent letter, at 30. I have destroyed the notes of my calculation, but there has evidently been some mistake. Possibly I took the resignations of the year instead of the season. Anyway, as an old member of the Society I do not want to injure it by making things out to be worse than they are, and therefore gladly make this correction. Instead of recording resignations and a consequent decrease I should like the premier society to be able to show an increase, as it should, and as I believe other societies can boast of.

The *Philatelic Record* has come out with two numbers since I last wrote, one, the May issue just before, and the other, the June number, during the Manchester exhibition.

I regret that non-philatelic matters prevented my attending the Manchester Philatelic Exhibition, but from all sides I hear nothing but praise of all the arrangements and of the Exhibition itself. It seems to be the general opinion that it has run the London show very close, and in the opinion of some I have spoken to, who were there, it was a better exhibition. Naturally in the two years that have elapsed since the London exhibition, the leading specialists, who make these shows, have strengthened their possessions, and to that extent many exhibits shown at the London meeting and again exhibited at Manchester would not fail to be stronger and more complete.

Mr. Tamsen of Transvaal fame has come to London and brought his collection here for disposal. It is a general collection, and of course includes his splendid lot of Transvaals, which he specialised. Failing to get a satisfactory offer for the collection as a whole, Mr. Tamsen has handed it over to Messrs Ventom, Bull & Cooper to auction it next season. Mr. Tamsen's collection shows what an omniverous collector he has been. Sheets and sheets of all kinds in most countries. Indeed, as a dealer remarked to me, it would be a splendid stock for a dealer starting in business. The collection is contained in some ten bulky volumes, and will take several days to sell.

I recently called attention to the scarcity of used copies of the "One-half-penny" British Bechuanaland Protectorate. Another stamp of the same colony that is getting decidedly scarce is what is termed the large "Protectorate", type I in Scott. You price it ten dollars. There are not many to be had here in London at ten dollars. As a guide to collectors I may note that the large "Protectorate" measures $18\frac{3}{4}$ mm and the ordinary $15\frac{3}{4}$ mm.

LONDON, 12, August, 1899.

Now is the winter of our philatelic discontent. There is little or nothing doing. The Strand alone does a little business, in these days, with American and Continental visitors. But of business with the aborigine there is almost none. Some take advantage of the lull to make up stock books, others cast up their accounts, and note the results of the past season. And what of the past season? Well, on the whole, it seems to be agreed that there has been decidedly more selling, but prices have ruled low. There has been no ruling passion, or fashion, in any particular line; Africans have been most in favor and have been bought most readily. But of a hare and hounds rush on one country, such as we had a few years back in West Indians, there has been no sign. And that is a very good thing too, for a fashion that runs up a country or a group to famine prices and subsequently lands the favorites in a bad slump does incalculable harm. Still, so many got bitten in West Indies that I don't think there will be another reckless plunge for many years.

The pages of our philatelic journals this month are choked up with long-winded accounts of the Manchester Exhibition, to the utter exclusion of ordinary matter. The *Monthly Journal* has no less than forty-seven columns in small type of exhibition matter; and the *London Philatelist* follows suit with twenty, out of its 28 pages, given up to the exhibition. This is enough to sicken the ordinary readers of those journals of exhibitions for a century to come. Those who want so much about the exhibition will have bought the official catalogue. Half a dozen pages of terse, critical description would have been more than ample for the most exacting.

The fun of the fair was the quiet way in which the *Monthly Journal* stole a march on the *London Philatelist*. Mr. Castle's journal is due on the 27th of the month and the Gibbons organ on the last day of the month. Thus, in the ordinary course of nature, the *London Philatelist* would have a four days start of the *Monthly Journal* in the publication of the awards, at which prospect no doubt Mr. Castle laughed up his sleeve. But, lo and behold! the *Monthly Journal* comes quietly out some two days before the *London Philatelist*. It was a good stroke of the Major's to be out first in this style. When the *L. P.* did ultimately appear, its news was stale indeed.

There is a rumor that the financial results of the Exhibition are not panning out well, and that probably the guarantors will have to bear a heavy burden. I trust this is not so, for the Manchester men have worked splendidly over the business, and have deserved a complete success, but the refusal of the authorities to allow any dealers stalls was a serious matter from the financial point of view.

"English as she is wrote" in the pages of the *London Philatelist* is a source of never failing amusement to us. In the last number we were informed that "if" is a preposition, and in the current number we are told by Mr. Castle that "philately proper appeals equally to the rich and the unrich." May I extend the sentence, and add, "to the good and the ungood."

How would the total abolition of stamps affect philately? In view of the flood that we have had for some years I am inclined to think it would be many years before we should feel the pinch of such a drastic measure. On the other hand, no one of ordinary perception doubts that new issues are the life blood of stamp collecting, for the continual supply of interesting new issues, marking the rise and fall of governments, the change of possession, or of currency, is a most important factor in the promotion of our pursuit. However, the following announcement appears in the London *Daily Mail* this week :—

“The total abolition of the postage stamp is the latest proposal that has been made to the post office for the improvement of its system. It is suggested that a form of automatic machine should be employed, with a slit into which the letter should be inserted. When a penny is placed in a slot the machine will stamp the letter and thus obviate the use of ordinary stamps.”

So great a hold has the penny-in-the-slot machine taken on us that some folks are apparently under the impression that it should be applied to the supply of everything and anything that a penny will buy. Only the most credulous will expect it to answer the purposes of the universal postage stamp.

How quietly some stamps appreciate. They rise slowly, but steadily, in price, till some day the information leaks out that such and such a stamp is priced up high in the last catalogue. Then collectors begin to ask the reason of such a sudden jump, but on consulting the previous editions they discover that it has been rising for some years, and then they are disappointed at finding that they had not bought the stamp at the ordinary price of a current issue as they might have done. The South Australia 1893-4 series, perf. 15, is a case in point. Here are the prices of unused copies in the last successive catalogues of Gibbons :—

	1896.	1897.	1899.
½d yellow brown,	0.2	0.2	0.2
1d green,	0.2	0.6	1.6
2d orange,	0.4	0.6	2.0
2 ½d blue lilac,	0.4	0.9	2.6
4d violet,	0.9	—	12.6
5d brown purple,	0.9	1.6	—
6d bright blue,	1.0	2.6	6.0

Here is a simple lesson in the steady rise in price of a whole series and, be it noted, the rise is greatest in the last catalogue when prices were reduced wholesale. I am further assured that this series perf. 15 is even a great deal rarer than the latest catalogue quotations indicate. The 5d I am told is quite a 15s stamp, and not many in mint condition are to be had at that price. My readers will, therefore, do well to take my tip and secure any or all these stamps they can get at—double face, for the stamps are still getting scarcer and, therefore, dearer.

It is the old story. New issues, common, get them any time. They come and go, and though they are printed in immense quantities, every now and again some common new issue gets scarce in its unused state, and then begins to rise, dealers cannot find a supply, and up go prices, and it turns out that it is not to be had in the unused condition, though it may be as common as ever in the used state. For some reason the quantity stocked by the trade has been insufficient, and the market is short. The stamp appreciates in response to the natural law of supply and demand.

A stamp or a series that rises slowly but steadily is a safe investment. It is those stamps which spring into high prices from one catalogue to the next that are risky, and need to be charily watched by the trade as well as by collectors. Cases are not unknown of a single stamp being run up from 1s.6d. to 17.6d at a single bound. You inquire the reason. No copies to be had anywhere. It turns out after the catalogue is published that there are copies to be had sufficient to enable the holders to undersell the catalogue by 50 per cent. On the other hand, a steadily rising stamp shows that the supply is being drained to the dregs.

Another Colony is caving in to the inevitable adoption of Imperial Penny Postage. The Cape of Good Hope proposes to join the majority on the 1st. of September.

Mr. Henniker Heaton knows a Colony that was saved from bankruptcy by a new issue of stamps. Name! Name! Was it Virgin Islands!

What is to happen, philatelically, with the Niger Coast. This territory which has been run by a Company is now being taken over by the Government and turned into a Crown Colony. The whole Niger Coast is to be divided for administration purposes into Lagos, with its present area; Southern Nigeria, composed of the Niger Coast Protectorate and part of the Niger Companies territories; and Northern Nigeria, composed of the rest of the Company's territories, including Borgu and Ilorin. The question for us is whether these divisions will also be separated philatelically, that is to say, will have separate issues of stamps. It seems they are for the present to have one customs arrangement, and, that being so, it is possible there will be only one postal arrangement also and, consequently, only one series of postage stamps for all three divisions.

Meanwhile, those who have not filled up their blanks in the stamps issued by the Company, should do so while they are common and cheap. Some day these stamps will no doubt be much sought after, for they have an interesting history of their own. They are full of good shades and varieties of perfs. and paper.

A winding up order has been granted against Hilckes & Co. and the business is now in the hands of the Receiver in Bankruptcy. It remains to be seen what will be done with it. The question is whether arrangements can be made for the Debenture holders to take over and carry it on, or whether it will be shut up, and the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* sold. Since the commencement of proceedings the *Fortnightly* has been in abeyance. It is, or should be, a good property and, doubtless, some one will buy it, if the business is shut up. Apart from the cantankerousness that Hilckes imparted to the journal, it was an acceptable stamp paper.

The new series of Dutch stamps has come out at a rather unfortunate time, for in such a quiet season there cannot be the demand for it that there would be in, say, the winter season. The result will be that many specialists who look sharp by after first printings of important new issues will miss them. In this case I am inclined to think that it will be more than usually interesting to label the first printing, for some of the colors are so delicate that it will

be impossible for the printers to avoid the making of shades. Already I have seen two distinct shades of the 10c, one a very pale lilac and the other a much darker shade, but both lilac.

Now that our Gibbons has published a color chart, we shall probably be more uniform in our naming of the colors of stamps. Let us hope, at all events, that we shall get rid of such absurdities as "red lilac," etc. It is better to stick to any nomenclature, even to "red lilac," so long as we all call the same thing by the same name, than to be all at sixes and sevens, each being a law unto himself. I have for years accepted the color chart published by the National Philatelic Society of New York in 1884. However, if now we on this side follow Gibbons' and you the National Philatelic Society's, we shall get along fairly well. But a very much better plan would be for one of the leading societies to take up the whole question, and get the other leading societies in the important capitals to agree upon the adoption of one or other, or a combination, of the existing color charts. Some such active society as the Manchester Society might take the initiative. One of the greatest needs to-day in the philatelic world is a real working philatelic society for the Metropolis, that would take up such matters and carry them to an issue in a business like manner.

The scanty attention paid to Europeans at the Manchester Exhibition is a matter of general comment. I note that Mr. F. E. Wilson calls attention to it in his excellent note in the August *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY* on uncatalogued varieties included in the Exhibition. The fact that no less than fourteen European States of considerable philatelic importance were not shown in specialised collections is a pretty ominous confirmation of my note of some months back concerning the boasted popularity of Europeans. The much desired boom, which was then said to be at full tide, does not seem to arrive, despite the fervent prayers of industrious parties, aided by the crying down of other countries to pave the way to the coveted event. Europeans have been run up to terrific prices, especially unused.

The philatelic journals have given circulation to the news of a projected new issue for the Transvaal. I am now enabled to give the following definite information on official authority. The designers and engravers are Messrs. Delfos Bros., of Pretoria. The colors will remain the same for each value as for the present issues. The designs, which are still in the hands of the engravers, are a bust of President Kruger for the values up to and including one shilling, and the arms of the republic for all the higher values. The new issues will not be ready for at least five or six months. The reason for the change is that the Volksraad considers it advisable to have the stamps manufactured Pretoria, as the government has its own printing office.

The Act of the Volksraad, which will govern the issue of the new series, provides that a sufficient quantity of stamps must be always in stock, and that they are to be printed at the State printing office; that all dies, forms etc., must be placed in a room, locked with three different locks, that every member of the Committee must have one of the keys, and that two members of the Committee must always be present during the printing of the stamps.

History of the Belgian Postage Stamps and Entires.

BY JULES BOUVÉZ.

The Belgian postage stamps of the third issue of 1884, bearing the portrait of King Leopold II, were the first to be made by the bureau at Malinés after its facilities for manufacturing had been extended, improved and reorganized on the new basis.

These stamps deserve special study because they show certain peculiarities which are to be found in the early years of their issue.

After having reproduced the decrees which gave them birth, we shall pass them successively in review, giving prominence to the varieties of shade and the other differences which characterise them.

The first decree relating to these stamps is dated June 9th, 1884, and provides for the creation of stamps of 10 centimes and 1 franc, as well as prescribing the new colors adopted for these values. As a result of this decree the stamps of 40 centimes and 5 francs disappeared from the set in use, and were replaced by a stamp of 2 francs, the creation of which was first ordered by decree of August 29th, 1883 and then postponed by decree of December 31st, 1883, (see page 233, Vol. 11, No. 6)

These changes were necessitated by the organization of the service for the redemption and payment of the interest and dividend coupons, as well as by the reduction in the taxes on commercial bills of exchange, and the constant increase in the work of the various divisions of the post office.

The first supply of these new stamps was distributed by the factory at Malinés. The various post offices were only partly supplied, beginning with the most important, and in proportion to the quantities manufactured. The subsequent supplies consisted partly of the old stamps, until the exhaustion of the stock which remained on hand, and it was ordered that these old stamps be used in preference in order to hasten their exhaustion. Hence the new stamps were delivered to the public only when specially asked for. Special care was also advised to prevent the occurrence of errors through simultaneous existence of stamps of the same color, but of different values, during the period elapsing between the issue of the new stamps and the final exhaustion of the stamps of the previous type. On this subject we may add that the conditions stated caused the order postponing the appearance of the 2 francs stamps for which the brown color had been adopted, the purpose of which was the prevention of confusion with the 5 francs stamp of the same color, which was to remain in use until completely sold out, and which was withdrawn from circulation in October, 1894. It was for the same reason that the color brown was changed to violet in the 2 francs, the decree in regard to which we publish further on.

We now reproduce the decrees of which we have spoken :

"Leopold II, King of the Belgians,

"To all whom it may concern, greeting,

"In view of Art. 40 of the law of May 30th, 1879, authorizing the government to issue postage stamps,

"In view of our decrees of November 13th, 1869, and August 29th, 1883 creating the existing types of postage stamp,

"On the recommendation of our Minister of Public Works,

"We have decreed and do decree,

"Art. 1.—The type of postage stamps adopted by our decree of August 29th, 1883, for the values of 10 centimes and above shall be replaced by a new type bearing our portrait.

"Art. 2.—Our Minister of Public Works is authorized to determine the values, the colors and the dates of issue of the stamps and regulations for postal prepayment in general.

"Art. 3.—The stamps of the designs and colors now in use will be used until they are exhausted."

Our Minister of Public Works is entrusted with the execution of this decree.

Given at Brussels, June 9th, 1884,

LEOPOLD.

By the King,

The Minister of Public Works,

X. OLIN.

"The Minister of Public Works.

In view of the royal decree of June 9, 1884, which creates a new type of postage stamps and authorizes the Minister of Public Works to determine the values, colors, and the dates of issue of the stamps and regulations for postal prepayment,

Decrees.

Article I.

The new postage stamp of one franc will be issued on the 15th of June next and that of ten centimes on the 15th of July.

The first will be red brown and the second carmine.

Article II.

There will be issued on July 1, a postage stamp of one centime and a postal card of five centimes, corresponding to the current type. The stamp will be gray and the card will be printed in green and will bear a modified inscription.

Given at Brussels, June 10, 1884.

(Signed) X. OLIN.

At the time of the appearance of these decrees the postal administration issued the following instructions on the subject of the issue of these new values :

"Certain decrees, which are now being printed, authorize the creation of a new type of postage stamps and the issue of two stamps of this type, namely, that of one franc, to appear on the 15th of June, and that of ten centimes, to appear on the 15th of July.

"The type of the stamps below ten cents will remain as before, but the colors will be changed.

"There will be sent from this office to all post offices a certain quantity of new stamps of one franc.

"As to the other values, they will be furnished with the regular supplies, which will comprise at the same time the stamps and other postal values of the old type which remain on hand.

"The sale of these new stamps is forbidden until the dates determined upon above.

"The post offices will take particular pains to exhaust in the first instance the old stamps, without, however, refusing the new ones to those who particularly desire to obtain them. If required, the offices are to ask for a supplementary shipment of these last stamps.

Brussels, June 10, 1884.

The Director-General,
VINCHENT.

As a result of these decrees, the postage stamp depot at Malinés gave notice that the stamps of ten centimes, of the issue of Aug. 29, 1883, would be exhausted with the delivery to be made to the post offices on July 1, 1884, but there would remain in stock 5,000 sheets of white paper, numbered from 994,999 to 999,999, which could be used for printing the stamps of ten centimes of the new issue.

It was then decided that before using for the stamps of ten centimes the sheets of paper with blue tint, adopted for this value, there should be utilized the 5,000 sheets remaining on hand. The first printing of the stamps of ten centimes carmine, of July 15, 1884, was thus made on white paper, instead of on bluish, and these 5,000 sheets produced 1,500,000 stamps. It must be remarked, however, that, as this quantity would not be sufficient to supply all the post offices, the printing office proceeded at the same time to the printing of the stamps on blue paper, which were distributed concurrently with those printed on white paper. In order to assure the prompt exhaustion of these last, the largest proportion of them was divided among the important offices of the first two classes. Let us add that during the period from June 15, 1884 to October 30, 1885, 300,000 sheets of stamps of ten centimes were printed on bluish paper, corresponding to ninety millions of stamps, which constituted the first printing of this value.

As to the stamp of one franc, it was printed on sheets tinted pale green, but as this was a new value, the use of which would, at the beginning, be rather limited, only 1,500 sheets, or 450,000 stamps, were printed at first.

Toward the end of the year 1884 the stamp of 25 centimes, of the issue of August 29, 1883, became exhausted, and there was ordered, by the following decree, the issue of a new value :

"The Minister of Railroads, Posts and Telegraphs:

"In view of the royal decree of June 9, 1884, which creates a new type of postage stamps, and authorizes the Minister of Public Works to determine the values, the colors, and the dates of issue of the stamps and regulations for postal prepayment.

Decrees : A new postage stamp of 25 centimes in blue color will be issued on January 1, 1885.

Brussels, December 22, 1884.

(Signed) J. VANDENPEEREBOOM.

The first printing of this value consisted of 50,000 sheets or 15,000,000 stamps, which were printed on pale rose paper. They were intended to supply the estimated requirements until the end of the year 1885.

A little later, about the 10th of December, 1885, the stamp depot, finding itself unable to satisfy all the quarterly requirements for the values of 20 and 50 centimes of the previous issue, obtained authority to print these values in the new type on tinted paper, and it is thus that there appeared the following decree which foreshadowed the issue of new stamps of 2 francs, the necessity for which had become apparent :

"The Minister of Railroads, Posts and Telegraphs :

"In view of the royal decree of June 9, 1884, which creates a new type of postage stamps, and authorizes the Minister of Public Works to determine the values, the colors, and the dates of issue of the stamps and regulations for postal prepayment.

"Decrees : The following postage stamps will be issued on January 1, 1886 : one stamp of 20 centimes in reseda color, one stamp of 50 centimes in yellow brown color, one stamp of 2 francs in violet color."

Brussels, December 23, 1885.

(Signed) J. VANDENPEEREBOOM.

The series was thus completed on January 1, 1886, and it comprised six values. At the time of the printing which took place from the 5th to the 20th December, 1885, a paper of a darker tint than that which had been employed in the printing of June 10, 1884, was used for the stamps of 10 centimes and one franc. We give below the different shades that were thus adopted and the number of each value issued under this printing, which was made between December 5, 1885 and April 15, 1888 :

10 centimes	carmine on blue,	600,000 sheets or 180,000,000 stamps
20 "	reseda on gray green,	25,000 " or 7,500,000 "
25 "	blue on rose,	110,000 " or 33,000,000 "
50 "	yellow brown on cream,	10,000 " or 3,000,000 "
1 franc	red brown on greenish,	2,500 " or 750,000 "
2 francs	violet on mauve,	400 " or 120,000 "

At the time of the distribution of the complete series of six values, of the issue of January 1, 1886, to the Belgian post offices, the administration thought it necessary to issue the following rules on the subject of the supply of these values, which rules form the subject of the royal decree of July 15, 1886 :

"The regular orders for stamps to be made by the post offices are to be made at the dates determined hereafter :

"First. By the offices of the first and second classes, on the first of each month to cover the requirements for the following month.

"Second. By the offices of the third and fourth classes, on the first of each second month, that is to say, on the first of the months of February, April, June, August, October and December, to cover the requirements for the following two months.

"Third. By the offices of the fifth class, on the first of each third month of each quarter, to cover the requirements for the following quarter.

"Postage stamps of 1, 2, 5 and 10 centimes are to be ordered in entire sheets of 300 stamps.

"Postage stamps of 20, 25 and 50 centimes, 1 and 2 francs are to be ordered in entire sheets or in fractions of 1-6, 2-6, 3-6, 4-6 or 5-6 (50, 100, 150, 200 or 250 stamps) according to actual necessity.

"Unpaid Letter stamps are to be asked for in full sheets of 300 stamps, fractions of sheets of 1-6, 2-6, 3-6, 4-6 or 5-6, according to the exigencies of the service."

On July 15, 1888, a third printing of the different values was undertaken, of which we shall now speak. This printing differs from the preceding one in that the paper used was surfaced after printing, which made the colors brighter. We find the following salient points in this third printing : In the 10 centimes the paper has a decidedly more pronounced blue tint than in the preceding printing, and in the 25c the blue of the stamp is much brighter. As to the 50c, the color of the paper became buff, instead of cream. This third printing consisted of the following :

10 centimes	carmine rose on bright blue,	800,000 sheets or 240,000,000 stamps
20 "	olive on light gray,	400,000 " or 120,000,000 "
25 "	bright blue on rose,	120,000 " or 36,000,000 "
50 "	brown on light buff,	15,000 " or 4,500,000 "
1 franc	red on green,	2,500 " or 750,000 "
2 francs	violet on light mauve	1,000 " or 300,000 "

Finally, on June 20, 1891, at the time of the issue of the new value of 35 centimes, a new printing took place on paper more highly tinted, showing also a slight modification in the colors, and in the perforation which became 15, instead of 14. This printing consisted of the following:

10 centimes	carmine rose on bright blue,	300,000 sheets or 90,000,000 stamps
20 "	light olive on light olive,	20,000 " or 6,000,000 "
25 "	bright blue on bright rose,	80,000 " or 24,000,000 "
50 "	brown on buff,	4,000 " or 1,200,000 "
1 franc	dark brown on bright green,	15,000 " or 4,500,000 "
2 francs	violet on pale violet,	2,000 " or 60,000 "

The principal errors which were discovered among the different printings of this important issue are the following:

1°. 10c carmine on blue.

a. A letter "o" formed in the middle of the shading under the ear. This peculiarity is found particularly in the first printing.

b. Letter "м" placed obliquely almost under the ear, which may be found in stamps of the second printing.

c. The absence of the initials "ЭМ" in the lower right corner of the frame of the stamp.

d. The figure of the caryatide which supports the medallion is badly formed. On some the absence of the right eye may be observed, in others the design of the crown is unformed or scarcely visible.

e. The tail of the "Q" of Belgique is crossed by two horizontal lines of shading and becomes invisible, thus changing the "Q" to an "O".

f. The shading of the medallion near the nose is entirely absent for the space of 1½ mm.

g. The bracket placed at the right of the caryatide has only eight lines of shading.

The last five errors have been seen only in stamps of the third printing, and in the proportion of three in each hundred of the varieties c, d and e and seven in each hundred of the varieties f and g.

2°. 20c olive on gray.

a. In stamps of the first printing the initials "ЭМ" placed in the lower left corner of the stamp, as in the 10c carmine, is replaced by a "v" on some specimens and by the sign "]" on others. These marks appear to be due to imperforations in the printing of the two initials of the engraver.

b. Absence of shading in the lower left shield bearing the indication of value. In the first printing, in each sheet of 300 stamps, this error is to be found on only the five stamps placed in the center of the sheet, but it appears on such a large number of sheets that it may be estimated that fifteen out of each thousand have this error of impression.

c. Interception of the line forming the medallion opposite the eye. This error is rare.

d. Absence of the left branch, forming the head of the "т" in the word "Poste".

3°. 25c blue on rose.

a. The letters "E" and "S" of the word "Postes", in the upper portion of the stamp, are joined at the bottom.

b. The lines of shading of the medallion in the upper right corner are imperceptible, as well as those in the medallion in the lower right corner.

c. Two hemispheres appear in the lower corners of the stamp. The one at the right represents the Western hemisphere and shows, on the left side, three thick dots and two small ones. The upper one at the left represents, at least so states the engraver, the archipelago of the Solomon Islands, belonging to France; the second represents the Hawaiian Archipelago; the third represents Samoa, or the Navigator Islands; the fourth, Tahiti, belonging to France, and the fifth, New Zealand, belonging to Great Britain. In the stamps of the second printing a certain number of sheets have been found in which the second, third and fourth dots are absent. This error exists on thirty stamps of each one of the sheets on which it appears.

d. In the lower left medallion there are two dots near the left center of the ellipsis. These two dots, of which one represents the Island of Borneo and the other New Guinea, are placed directly above the shading which represents Australia on the map. These points are absent on a certain number of sheets of the second printing, but it is said to be impossible to determine even approximately the number that may be found on a sheet, as this peculiarity was not noticed until long after the stamps had been placed on sale.

e. Entire absence of shading in a space measuring $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm., in the frame surrounding the portrait. This peculiarity appears on about twenty per cent of the stamps of the third printing.

4°. 50c brown on buff.

Entire or partial absence of the initials of the engraver at the foot of the column at the right, supporting the medallion. This error is the only one found on this stamp. Of this only a few specimens are found and it is only in the third printing.

5°. 1 franc brown on green.

At the time of the printing made on July 15, 1888, there appeared a certain number of stamps of this value printed on paper tinted cream, instead of green. This variety resulted from an accidental printing on the paper intended for the 50 centimes, and very few of the post offices were supplied with it. This stamp is really a great rarity as only three or four hundred sheets were printed. The stamps were, in great measure, used on official documents with the stamp of 2 francs, and they were destroyed by the postal administration at the time that an *auto da fe* was made of the archives. Another peculiarity was found in this stamp, and that is that a certain number of sheets were embossed accidentally, with a grill, which may be remarked in the medallions. A few other errors found on the 1 franc stamps are the following:

a. Entire absence of the figure of value in the lower right corner of the stamp. This error is very rare.

b. The shading of the neck in the portrait is broken twice, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. under the ear.

Counterfeits of South Bulgaria Surcharges.

Translated from the *Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung*.

BY GUSTAV RÜHLAND.

Several articles have appeared about the stamps of South Bulgaria. The first and most complete is that of Mr. A. von Gissa, in Nos. 2, 3 and 4 of the *Philatelist* of the year 1887. The second one appeared in No. 2 of the *Mitteldeutsche Philatelisten-Zeitung* of February, 1895, written by Mr. A. E. Glasewald, who based his article on the first mentioned, and a third one in No. 51 of *Erdball-Merkur* written by Mr. Theo. Haas, which, however, presents only a complete list arranged by types. It is not my intention to write a new treatise on these stamps, but I desire to call attention to the finest forgeries that have ever been made.

For several years the stamps of South Bulgaria have come upon the market in unused condition in large quantities, while in the early years after their appearance unused specimens were not at all plentiful. The carefully printed surcharge and the color of it induced me to examine them with care, and as the result of such examination I have been convinced that this new material consists of counterfeits of the most dangerous character.

In order to find out whether these counterfeits were already known, I sent five specimens, in addition to three genuine specimens, to a well known specialist in the stamps of this country for expert opinion. He declared all but one to be genuine. However, the one that he declared to be counterfeit was one of the three genuine stamps.

In consequence it is not to be wondered at that these counterfeit stamps should be frequently found with the guarantee stamps of some of the best known dealers and professional experts.

Fortunately I was in the possession of undoubtedly genuine specimens which I had received at the time of issue direct from Philippopol. When, in October 1885, I read in the *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* the announcement of the issue of these stamps, I immediately wrote to Mr. A. von Gissa in Philippopol, who was known to me as a collector, requesting him, if possible, to obtain for me a complete set of these stamps. A few weeks later I received a set consisting of all values with the lion surcharge, with and without frame, in blue and in black. The only values missing were the 5 paras olive and 10 paras green, in all types, as well as the 20 paras black and rose with lion and without frame. These stamps were not to be had at the post office window. In addition I received about six specimens with inverted surcharge. All the stamps, as Mr. von G. assured me, had been purchased by him at the post office and therefore were undoubtedly genuine.

As is well known, four different types of the lion are known in the genuine surcharges, the principal characteristics of which are as follows, the descriptions being taken from the article of Mr. Glasewald in the *Mitteldeutsche Philatelisten Zeitung* :

Type I. (Small lion) Crown clear of the head showing plainly the band with jewels. First paw has three claws pointing towards the head. Second paw has four claws, last of which stands off from the others and points downwards: third paw also has four claws, the fourth very short and looks more like the angle of a joint: the fourth paw has also four claws, the fourth

being comparatively shorter than in the third paw. The tail consists of a double curved line and ends in a thick tuft of hair. The lion stoops considerably; the knee of the third leg is bent at an acute angle, that of the fourth at a right angle.

Type II. (Large lion). The crown is placed close to the head and hence the band is not visible. All paws have three toes. In the first the third toe stands off from the others and points more downward, such being also the case in the second paw. On the third paw the second and third toes point downward, while in the fourth the third toe is shorter than the others. The tail is more curved, the end somewhat thicker and longer. The tail is almost erect, the knees are bent at right angles, the feet of the third and fourth paws have spur-like ends.

Type III. The first letter of the inscription has a round "o" which stands a little higher than the last letter "a". The right stroke of the "a", if continued, would end in the upper horizontal line. Crown and head are considerably smaller than in types I and II, the former resembling a wreath. The claws of the first paw are set far back, the first of them tapering considerably. The third toe of the second paw is bent horizontally forward and stands off considerably from the others. The third paw resembles that of the second type, the second and third toes are bent downwards, while the fourth paw, which has only two toes, rests on a vertical foot. The tail is considerably smaller than in the first two types and consists of a single curved line, the tuft appearing only as a white oval.

Type IV. The first letter in the inscription has an oval "o". The inscriptions are a trifle larger, as well as the crown. The toes of the first paw are all distant from one another, the third toe of the second paw is drawn in and is quite distant from the others. The third paw is more bent, as in the third type, and the fourth type again has three toes. The tail stands further off, and in contrast with the third type, has a full tuft.

Among the stamps received from Mr. G— there were several which showed a variety of the third type, namely, the three claws of the second paw of the lion being equi-distant. How this type arose is not exactly clear to me. Perhaps this is the original of the third type and the others are only a variety. Perhaps it arose through a break between the claws of the second paw, which has separated the two claws.

It is interesting to note that the counterfeits exist in all four types and that they show all the peculiarities mentioned herewith, a proof of how splendidly the forger worked. However, as nothing in the world is perfect, so also these forgeries, as well as they are executed, show characteristic signs which I shall now describe.

As the surcharges are made with a hand stamp they are frequently indistinct and blotted, so that sometimes the varieties of type are not easily determined.

Type I. This has been counterfeited best and but few distinguishing marks can be given. The lion, measured from the cross in the crown to the last claw in the fourth paw, measures $14\frac{1}{2}$ mm in the genuine and 15mm in the counterfeit.

Type II. The genuine lion in the same measurement measures 16mm high, the counterfeit 15mm. Measured from the cross in the crown to the third claw of the first hind foot 15mm against 14, from the third claw of the first fore foot to the end of the tail, measured horizontally, 10mm against almost 11. The chief difference is that in the genuine surcharge the nose of

the lion is turned upward whereas in the counterfeit it is turned down, and also the crown in the genuine is broader than in the counterfeit.

Type III. The genuine type has a broader border line than the counterfeit. The width of the lion, measured horizontally from the second claw of the second fore foot, to the end of the tail, is 10mm, whereas in the counterfeit it is 9mm. The claw on the third toe of the second paw is horizontal and in the counterfeits it plainly points downward. If a line be drawn between the two upper corners direct through the upper inscription the vertical stroke of the first letter will be plainly above the line in the genuine, whereas in the counterfeit only a part of the "o" will be above.

Type IV. The width of the lion, measured in the same way as in the last type, is somewhat over 10mm in the genuine and somewhat under 10mm in the counterfeit. The width of the octagon measured from the upper left truncated corner to the lower truncated corner is almost 16mm in the genuine and only 15mm in the counterfeit. As in the third type the claw on the third toe of the second paw is exactly horizontal in the genuine and bent downward in the counterfeit.

New Varieties in United States Stamps.

Mr. H. F. Colman has shown us two varieties of the 1882 issue, which, so far as we are aware, have not hitherto been listed, at least not as stamps. These varieties are of the re-engraved types of the 1 and 3 cents. Like some of the stamps of the Continental Bank Note Co., they are printed on double paper, a very thin surface paper backed by a thicker and stouter paper. The peculiarity of these varieties is that, before printing, eight small round holes, arranged in a circle, were punched out of the surface paper. These groups of holes were arranged at intervals corresponding to the size of the stamps, so that a group should fall on each stamp. After printing, the appearance was that of the ordinary stamps but, of course, the ink had passed through the holes and portions of the design were thus printed on the backing paper. Any attempt to erase a cancellation would result in tearing the thin paper, while the application of water would cause the stamp to separate into two parts, one showing a circle of small holes and the other a blank surface with a circle of colored dots.

Mr. Colman has a letter from the Third Assistant Postmaster General which says in regard to these stamps:

"In 1882 or '83 there was an issue of one-cent and three-cent stamps on double paper, like the samples submitted, after designs by two persons named Douglas and Steele. Quite a number of these stamps were issued on this paper, but upon trial, the Department did not consider it advisable to permanently adopt the plan, and the issue of that kind of stamps was discontinued."

From the foregoing it would appear that these stamps were in actual use and, therefore, are entitled to a place in catalogues and collections.

The Great Barrier Island Stamps.

We reproduce herewith three articles upon the subject of these stamps which we think will prove of interest to our readers. From the information thus supplied it is evident that these labels are not postage stamps but might more properly be called express stamps.

We quote the following letter from the *London Philatelist* for July :

" GENERAL POST OFFICE,

WELLINGTON, May 31st, 1899.

" SIR :—Referring to a paragraph which appeared on page 22 of your issue of January last under the heading of 'Great Barrier Island,' I think it right to call your attention to the fact that the stamp referred to as bearing the words 'Great Barrier Island, special post, one shilling,' has never been used for any postal purpose, and after searching inquiry by the Department I am unable to ascertain that it has even been used for franking letters carried by private ships or pigeons between Great Barrier Island and the mainland. The carrying of letters, or the use of stamps purporting in any way to be postage stamps, without the authority of the Government, would render the offender liable to punishment under the Post Office Acts.

" I have the honor to be, sir,

" Your obedient servant,

H. YOUNG, *Secretary.*

M. P. Castle, Esq.,

Editor *London Philatelist.*

The Secretary of the Auckland Philatelic Club, Ralph W. Gossett, Esq., sends us a clipping from the *New Zealand Evening Star* :

" Thursday, July 20, 1899.—The committee of the Auckland Philatelic Club unanimously passed a resolution not to recognise as collectable any of the stamps issued on pigeongrams until such stamps are sanctioned by Government authority, to be used postally."

We also find in the *New Zealand Graphic* the following interesting article concerning the pigeongram service and the stamps :

A NOVEL POSTAL SERVICE.

THE GREAT BARRIER PIGEONGRAM AGENCY.

The above agency, which has been filling the role of Pigeon Mail Carriers between the Great Barrier Island and this city for the last three years, having been brought prominently before the public of the colony by the issue of the unique "pigeongram stamp," a description of the work performed by their diminutive messengers with the illustrations shown will be perused with interest. The island is sixty miles from Auckland and will be remembered as the scene of the terrible wreck of the S. S. Wairarapa. The delay

of four days in getting the news of the wreck in Auckland pointed vividly to the isolation of the residents, who were completely cut off from communication with the mainland after the departure of the weekly steamer.

Occasionally a basket of "homers" was sent to the island by Mr. W. Fricker for use in case of emergency, but in 1896 the mining industry at the island getting into full swing caused a large increase in the population. It was at once felt that some quicker means of transit for correspondence was required, and the experiment of Fricker's birds having given satisfactory results, the "pigeongram service", which provided a safe and rapid means of transport for messages, was thoroughly established.

At the outset of the service the birds were worked from the island to Auckland only at the cost of two shillings per message, but after patience and perseverance in training a good team were got to do the return journey.

The time taken in transit of a message averages 65 to 70 minutes, according to wind and weather.

The circuit of communication being made complete, caused a large increase in the number of messages, coupled with the discovery that a bird could carry four messages at a time, induced the proprietors to reduce the cost of messages from the island to Auckland to sixpence, and the reverse journey was fixed at one shilling. This increased cost of a message from the city is occasioned by the extra labour entailed in training the birds, and getting them to leave the city on their long water fly.

The messages are written on tissue paper (quarto size) with carbon leaf, the tissue paper being perforated down each side, and on being folded is sealed with the "pigeongram stamp," which secures the privacy of the message. The messages are then wrapped around the pigeon's leg, and covered with a waterproof legging. This protects it from wet in case of bad weather, or from the bird pecking it off during transit.

To open the message the receiver cuts through the perforation.

There are just on one hundred birds engaged in the service. At both terminuses he usual trap for Homers is used, on entering which the wires fall back and strike an alarm. This notifies an attendant, who removes the messages, and the bird is permitted to enter the main loft.

Correspondence for transmission to the island is received up to 10 A. M.; from the island 3 P. M. The early hour from Auckland is occasioned by the fact that the island is often enveloped in fog after midday.

The Agency has been subsidised by the Northern Steamship Company, the mining companies working at the island, and some leading merchants in the city.

A communication from Dr. Erson to the press on the Agency we reproduce, as showing some of the benefits of the service. It is as follows:—"A smart piece of work was performed for me to-day by the Great Barrier Pigeongram Agency, Picton-street, Auckland, which I think in the interests of the public should be widely known. On Saturday afternoon I received an important cable for my brother, Dr. Leger Erson, who is at present on a visit to the Great Barrier Island, and wishing to get the cable through and a reply at the earliest possible moment, I placed myself in communication with the Pigeongram Agency, with the result that a bird was despatched to the island with the cablegram at 8 a.m. this morning, and I received my reply in Onehunga at a quarter past eleven a.m.—(Signed) W. R. Close-Erson, Mayor of Onehunga, July 16, 1899."

The Agency has received a pleasing recognition of their "pigeongram stamp" from His Excellency the Governor (the Earl of Ranfurly), specimens

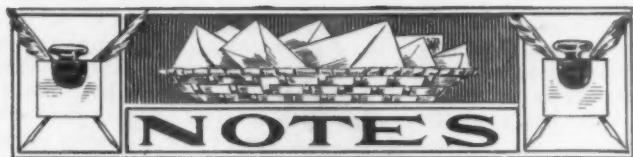
of the stamp having been sent to him for insertion in his collection. So pleased was His Excellency with the specimens that he forwarded an order for a supply for the purpose of sending them to some of his friends.



We show a diagram of the only stamps issued by the Agency,* as no doubt they will find their way into many collections. That the Pigeongram Service will one of these days be superseded by more frequent steamer or cable communication gives them an interest apart from the fact that this is the only bonafide pigeongram service known. The six-penny stamp is colored in light blue, and the 1s value in light red.

*The writer of this article was evidently unaware of the existence of the earlier issues.
—Editor A. J. P.





PERSIA.—We are just informed by a reliable correspondent that an entirely new issue is to appear in September, this, however, to be preceded by another surcharged issue. The surcharged stamps are to embrace all values of the 1898 series, with the exception of the 10 kran, the surcharge consisting of the monogram PP (Postes Persanes) in fancy letters. The stamps of the new type are to be of the same values as the issue of 1898.



Mr. A. J. H. Smith has shown the *Philatelic Journal of India* two unchronicled stamps of Portuguese India, the first being the 10 reis green of the Crown type, with double surcharge, namely, 1½ and 6 reis, and the second being the 10 reis black of 1872, on laid paper, in an unsevered tête bêche pair.



The *Monthly Journal* states that the surcharge 4c on 8c of Negri Sembilan is in dark green, and not in black.



BOSNIA.—Mr. William Brown has discovered that there are two types of the numerals on the ½n. In the second type the figures "1" are further away from the upper outlines of the ovals than in the earlier variety, and the fraction lines differ also in slope.



AUSTRIAN POST OFFICES IN THE LEVANT.—Mr. P. L. Chambers has shown us two varieties of the current surcharge on the 3kr green stamp of Austria. In the first the surcharge measures 15½mm., the distance between the last "A" of "PARA" and the figure "1" being 1mm., whereas the second surcharge measures 16mm., with a distance of 1½mm. between the "A" and "1."

We suppose the first variety represents a new printing, of which no notice has as yet appeared in the stamp papers.



We understand from some of the stamp papers that the 30pf stamp for Germany has finally been issued.

We also read in the daily papers that the Emperor has himself made the designs for an entire new set of stamps, to embrace values from 2pf to 1m 25pf. It is stated that the dies are to be engraved by an English firm as the

work of the engravers in that country is said to be superior to that of the Germans, particularly in the matter of such small designs as are used for postage stamps.



ANTIOQUIA.—The *Philatelic Monthly and World* has seen three curiosities of the 1896 issue, namely, the 5 pesos with the frame printed in the colors of the 2 pesos, green and orange, and the 1 peso without the arms in black in the center.



The *Philatelic Monthly and World* states that the French Bureau of Foreign Post Offices has recently decided upon a change in the stamps of Morocco, Turkey, Zanzibar and the French Offices in the Levant. It is said that new stamps will be provided, the design containing spaces for the name of the office and the value of the postage stamp in the currency of the respective countries in which they will be issued. The Offices in the Levant, Morocco and Zanzibar are to be the first to receive the new stamps.



NICARAGUA.—Dr. W. H. Mitchell, who is in touch with parties in Bluefields, communicates quite some interesting information in regard to the use of stamps at that place. He reports that in July there was not a single stamp of any kind available for postal use, except such as the merchants may have had remaining over in their hands. The Post Office Department at Managua appears to be neglecting the post office at Bluefields, as it has failed to send the desired supplies for a number of months. Our correspondent also states that it is not unlikely that a new series of provisionals will make its appearance in a short time. A few of the internal towns are forwarding mail with the simple hand stamp "Pagado," and it is also said that the revenue stamped paper may be utilized to perform postal service.





UNITED STATES.—On another page we describe two newly discovered varieties of the 1882 issue. These stamps were printed on double paper, having a circle of eight small holes punched through the surface paper before printing.

The new die of the four cent envelope has made its appearance and is said to differ mainly in the bust of Lincoln, which has been redrawn, and is to be distinguished by the hair which is neatly combed back.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated 12.

Die cut with eight small holes in a circle.

1c gray blue, re engraved

3c blue green "

Envelope stamps.

4c chocolate, white

4c " amber

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—In addition to the envelopes and wrappers announced a few months ago, we have now received from Mr. Waldemar Hoffman the new 4c and 6c cards with the same type of stamp.

Postal cards.

4c dark green

6c dark ultramarine

BRAZIL.—Just too late for our August number we received the Brazil stamps, mention of which was made in our notes in that number.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.

Purple surcharge.

50r on 20r green

100r " 50r green

300r " 200r violet

500r " 300r gray lilac

700r on 500r olive yellow

1000r " 700r chocolate

1000r " 700r fawn

2000r " 1000r yellow

BULGARIA.—Mr. C. Witt has shown us a new postal card which differs from the last issue in the address lines, which now measure 50½mm., instead of 46mm. as in the previous issue. There are also four lines for the address, instead of three.

Postal card.

5s green

CANADA.—We have received the 2c provisional stamps, the issue of which was announced in the official circular published in our August number. The surcharge is found on both the maple leaf and numeral types of the 3c stamp. It is said that 11,000,000 were surcharged, about 3,000,000 of which were of the maple leaf type.

Mr. Charles A. Benedict of Brantford has sent us samples of two envelopes with stamp of the 1877 type, which have not as yet, been chronicled and which should probably be classed as printed-to-order envelopes. They are said to be used by a certain firm in Brantford for circulars and letters and are printed on large manila amber envelopes.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated 12.

Surcharged in black **2 CENTS**

2c on 3c carmine, maple leaf

2c on 3c " numerals in corners

Envelopes.

Printed to order (?)

Size 265x113mm.
 1c dark ultramarine, manila amber paper
 3c red, manila amber paper

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The *Monthly Journal* has received a specimen of the 1p on 1½p card with a period after the word "penny."

Postal card
 1p on 1½p slate green

CEYLON.—The *Monthly Journal* reports that the new 75c stamp has been surcharged "On Service" for official use.

Official stamp.
 Watermarked Crown and C. A.
 Perf. 14.
 75c slate and brown

Panama.—We have now received the 10c stamp with the surcharge "R Colon" in a circle, in blue black, instead of in violet.

Registration stamp.
 Perforated 12.
 10c orange, blue black surcharge

CUBA.—Mr. F. S. Smith has sent us some more fancy varieties of U. S. envelopes surcharged for Cuba and, while they are genuine and were issued by our post office authorities, we consider their appearance a disgrace upon the authorities entrusted with the care of the Cuban post office. It appears that some parties in the employ of Director-General Rathbone have abused their official position by entering into league with stamp dealers for the production of certain varieties, of which these dealers should have a monopoly, the clerks referred to, no doubt, securing a share of the booty for their own account.

The *Weekly Philatelic Era* also informs us that a number of additional varieties of Cuban envelopes have been issued, the orders, however, having been sent through the contractors at Hartford without the intervention of the Post Office Department at Washington.

We give below a list of the envelopes as well as the quantities printed of each :

1c, green, white paper, No.	5,	5,000
1c, " manila "	6,	5,000
2c, red, white "	1,	5,000
2c, " oriental buff paper,	2,	5,000
2c, green " " "	5,	2,000
2c, red, blue paper,	5,	1,500
2c, " amber "	5,	1,500
2c, " oriental buff paper,	7,	5,000
2c, " white paper,	8,	50,000
2c, " " "	10,	2,000
2c, " blue "	13,	2,000
4c, brown, white paper,	7,	5,000
5c, blue " " "	5,	5,000
5c, " " "	8,	50,000

This list includes the envelopes first referred to.

The same correspondent states that the following postage due stamps have been surcharged for Cuba :

Postage due stamps.

Watermarked U. S. P. S.		
Perforated 12.		
1c deep claret		
2c " "		
5c " "		
10c " "		

EQUADOR.—Mr. C. Witt has shown us a provisional envelope, which, however, only interests collectors of entires as the surcharge is placed at the left of the envelope, while the stamp is at the right. The envelopes of the issue of 1894 are the sufferers in this instance, and the illustration which we supply herewith will furnish all the information desired in regard to the character of the surcharge itself.

Envelope.
 Provisional issue.



5c green, white paper, green surcharge

ERITREA.—It is now definitely announced that the recently issued 1 and 2 centesimi stamps of Italy have finally appeared with the Eritrea surcharge.

Adhesive stamps.

Watermarked Crown.

Perf. 14.

Black surcharge.

1c brown

2c red brown

French Offices in Zanzibar.—The 5 centimes stamp in the new color has now been surcharged $\frac{1}{2}$ anna for Zanzibar.

Adhesive stamp.

Perf. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

Red surcharge.

$\frac{1}{2}$ a on 5c yellow green

HAWAII.—The 5c stamp has now appeared in its new color, the design remaining the same as before, except that the word "CENTS" is now found below the statue, whereas it was omitted in the 1894 issue.

Adhesive stamp.

Perforated 12.

5c dark blue

Alwur.—Mr. C. Stewart Wilson has sent the *Monthly Journal* a vertical pair of the $\frac{1}{4}$ anna stamp from a new stone. The impressions are much further apart than before. There is no longer a thick line of shading down the left side, and the whole design appears to have been retouched to some extent. The stamps are also pin perforate.

Adhesive stamp.

Pin perforate 12.

$\frac{1}{4}$ anna slate blue

Cochin.—The *Monthly Journal* has received two envelopes in a design similar to the central portion of the current adhesives,—the figures denoting the value in the center, "Cochin Anchal" in the upper part of the inner oval band, and the value at the top of an outer band, in each case with the equivalent in native

characters below. The envelopes have "Cochin Government" embossed across the flap.

Envelopes.

120x95mm.

White laid paper.

$\frac{1}{2}$ p green

2p purple

Sirmoor.—A new postal card of a very artistic design, made by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, has been issued here. The stamp is of the value of 3 pies, and bears the portrait of the present Rajah in the right upper corner, an elaborate coat of arms with supporters, and an elephant for a crest in the upper center. The name of the State is spelled with only one "o."

Postal card.

3 pies green.

MAYOTTE.—The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* has received the 5 francs stamp in the current type.

Adhesives stamp.

Perforated $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

5fr red lilac, lavender

MOROCCO.—The *Timbre Poste* announces a new set for the service between Saffi and Marakech.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$.

5c yellow green and black

10c blue green and black

20c pale blue and black

25c lilac and black

50c rose and black

75c bistre and black

1 peseta claret and black

NETHERLANDS.—An entirely new issue of stamps, envelopes and postal cards made its appearance on August 1, and although it was intended to issue, at present, only the values from $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 50c the authorities must have changed their minds, as stamps of $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 5 florins are also found in the new outfit.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.

- 1/2c lilac
 - 1c red
 - 2c yellow brown
 - 2 1/2c green
 - 3c brown orange
 - 5c carmine
 - 7 1/2c brown
 - 10c gray lilac
 - 12 1/2c blue
 - 15c yellow brown
 - 20c yellow green
 - 22 1/2c brown and blue green
 - 25c carmine and blue
 - 50c bronze green and red brown
 - 2 1/2gl brown lilac
 - 5gl claret
- Envelopes.*
 Size 145x111mm.
 Bluish white paper.
 5c carmine
 12 1/2c blue
- Postal cards.*



BRIEKAART



AAR

- 2 1/2c gray green on gray green
- 2 1/2cx2 1/2c gray green on gray green, T 3



BRIEKAART

(GUMMED POSTAGE)

AANKOMST POSTKORTEN (TEEN HETZELFDE TOEGESCHRIJFDE)



Aank. naar het adres tekenen. (Een Hekel & P. uitgever.)

- 5c carmine on pinkish
- 5cx5c carmine on pinkish, T 3

NEW SOUTH WALES.—The wrapper has now been issued in the

blue green color employed for the new 1/2p adhesive stamp.

Wrapper.

Watermarked One Penny.

Laid Paper.

1/2p blue green

NICARAGUA.—Dr. W. H. Mitchell informs us that Bluefields and the other coast towns of Nicaragua had not been supplied with their stamp outfit by the middle of July, and that the 10c stamp of the 1898 issue, with the surcharge "Telegrafos" was being used for postage.

Telegraph stamp used for postage.

Perforated.

10c

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—It appears that all the remainders of the issues from 1882 to 1896 have been sold out, as almost all the varieties are now on the market in larger or smaller quantities. Out of this lot we have received specimens of the 5c blue stamp of 1882, bearing the same surcharge as was used in 1897 on the stamps of the 1889 type. It appears both in red and in black.

The new Philippine Islands stamps arrived in New York on Saturday, August 19, but a large part of the supplies received arrived all stuck together, on account of the moisture of the atmosphere in the Philippines. It will, therefore, be rather difficult to obtain specimens with full gum and collectors will generally have to be content to accept the stamps ungummed.

The Washington correspondent of the *Era* informs his journal that postage due stamps and envelopes, as listed below, have been ordered for the Philippine Islands:

Adhesive stamps.

Provisional issue.



5c on 5c blue, red surcharge
5c on 5c blue, black surcharge

Watermarked U. S. P. S.

Perf. 12.

Surcharged in black PHILIPPINES

1c green

2c red

3c purple

5c blue

10c yellow brown

Postage due stamps.

Watermarked U. S. P. S.

Perf. 12.

1c deep claret

2c " "

5c " "

10c " "

50c " "

Envelope.

2c red, white paper

Wrapper.

1c green, manila paper

ROUMANIA.—We find that we made an error in stating the color of the new 15b stamp which appeared here a few weeks ago. The stamp is black instead of violet, as previously announced by us.

The actual shade of the 5b is emerald green and that of the 10b lake rose.

We have also received from Mr. C. Witt a specimen of a provisional wrapper, made by surcharging the 1½b black wrapper with a surcharge in red in two lines "1 Ban", the "1" appearing on the stamp and the "Ban" directly beneath it.

Mr. Witt has also shown us a new 5c postal card with the stamp in emerald green.

Wrapper.

Size 470x31½.

1
Surcharged
BAN

1b on 1½b black, red surcharge

Postal card.

5c emerald green, white

SWITZERLAND.—The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* has received the

new 5c wrapper which is printed in green.

Wrapper.

Size 360x80mm.

5c green on brownish yellow

URUGUAY.—New 1, 2 and 10c stamps have been issued here, the designs of the 1890 issue being used for the 1c and 2c and that of 1897 for the 10c. The color of the 1c is very similar to that of the 1897 issue, except that it is yellow green, whereas the older one was distinctly blue green.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.

1c yellow green

2c orange

10c lilac

ZANZIBAR.—We have just received an entire set of the new issue, made in the same design as the last, but bearing the portrait of the new Sultan. The colors are practically the same as those of the previous issue.

Adhesive stamps.

Perf. 13½.



Watermarked flowers.

¾a yellow green and red

1a black blue and red

2a black and red

2½a ultramarine and red

3a slate and red

4a black green and red

4½a orange and red

5a bistre and red

7½a lilac and red

8a olive bistre and red

1r ultramarine and red

2r green and red

3r violet and red

4r lilac brown and red

5r black brown and red

Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.

SECTION ON PHILATELY—SEASON OF 1899-1900.

MEETING FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION.

Desiring that this season's work shall be of value to the members, the following course of meetings has been arranged by the Entertainment Committee. The meetings will be held at the Rooms of the Section, 174 Montague Street, Brooklyn, on the dates named, at 8.15 P. M. The gentlemen who have consented to be present at the meetings will talk informally upon the stamps under discussion, and will exhibit their own collections to illustrate the different points of interest. Members and their friends are invited to bring their collections of the particular class, country or group of countries under discussion for study and comparison, thus making the meetings both profitable and interesting :

DATES, 1899.

SUBJECTS.

Sept. 1st,—A Stereopticon Exhibition of Stamps.

" 15th,—Mr. M. C. Berlepsch, of New York, U. S. Periodicals and Dues.

Oct. 6th,—Mr. H. A. Talbot, of Brooklyn, Stamps of Holland and Colonies.

" 20th,—Dr. W. H. Mitchell, of Bayonne, N. J., "Early History of Central American Stamps."

Nov. 3rd,—Debate on the subject, "Shall we collect Seebecks?"

Affirmative: Mr. Crawford Capen; Negative: Mr. J. M. Andreini.

" 17th,—Mr. Henry C. Davis, of Philadelphia, British Colonies.

Dec. 1st,—Mr. J. W. George, of New York, Match and Medicine Stamps.

" 15th,—Mr. Clarence H. Eagle, of N. Y., U. S. Revenues.

1900.

Jan. 5th,—Mr. H. E. Deats, of Flemington, N. J., Confederate Stamps.

" 19th,—Mr. J. M. Andreini, of N. Y., Stamps of Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Danish West Indies and Hayti.

Feb. 2nd,—Mr. John N. Luff, of New York, Stamps of China and the Chinese Treaty Ports.

" 16th,—Mr. Crawford Capen, of N. Y., Stamps of Greece.

March 2nd,—Mr. J. M. Andreini, Stamps of France.

March,—EXHIBITION.

April 6th,—Mr. A. Krassa, of N. Y., Counterfeit Stamps and U. S. Proofs.

" 20th,—Mr. Alfred Baillod, of Brooklyn, General Collection of Stamps

May 4th,—Mr. Joseph S. Rich, of New York, Telegraph Stamps.

" 18th,—Mr. David S. Wells, of Brooklyn, Stamps of Spain and Colonies.

LECTURE COURSE OF THE SECTION ON PHILATELY.

Season of 1899-1900.

Lectures will be given on the dates mentioned below on topics of general interest to philatelists. The Lecturers and their subjects will be announced from time to time in the monthly bulletins and weekly tickets of the Institute.

Oct. 27, 1899	Jan. 26, 1900
Nov. 24, "	Feb. 23, "
Dec. 22, "	

Staten Island Philatelic Society.

The 195th meeting of the Staten Island Philatelic Society was held on July 18th, 1889, at Atlantic Brewery Hotel, Stapleton, S. I. President J. W. Sittig presiding and the following members present: Messrs. O. Dejonge, Eugene Angell, A. R. Richter, A. Lienhardt, Hugo Kessler, and R. H. Benary.

In the absence of the Secretary Mr. R. H. Benary was requested to act as such.

Letter from Mr. Charles Gregory was read and his resignation accepted with regret.

Mr. Henry L. Calman donated a fine lot of U. S. stamps for the Society's Album, which were accepted with thanks to the kind donor.

Mr. C. Witt sends "*Les timbres-poste des Romagnes*" by Emilio Diena for the library, also an envelope posted on one of the mail steamers on the "Bodensee" (Lake Constance) which envelope bears the following stamps duly cancelled: 2pf. Wurtemberg, 3c Switzerland, 10pf Germany, 2kr. Austria and 3pf. Bavaria, equaling the correct postage of 20pf or 5 cents necessary to carry the letter to the U. S. The above countries and states border on Lake Constance and all letters posted on board of the mail steamers must pay postage to the countries which jointly administer this mail system. These interesting gifts were accepted with thanks to Mr. Witt.

Mr. Eugene Angell, 149 E. 15th St., New York, was elected Exchange Manager by a unanimous vote.

The meeting then adjourned.

R. H. BENARY, *Sec'y pro tem.*





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